

FLAVOR SECOND TO NONE

2006 J. LOHR *ESTATES* Old Vines Zinfandel, Paso Robles

VINTAGE

The 2006 harvest returned Paso Robles to drought conditions— the third of the last four years. The low rainfall however, was helped by a warm, slow-ripening vintage with minimal vine stress. This mild growing season pushed ripening slowly in 2006, with optimal flavor development occurring in late September. The intensely flavored and small-berried Zinfandel harvest started on September 26th, followed by a second harvest on October 4th at an average of 25.4° Brix.

ZINFANDEL

We grow our Zinfandel on our Pleasant Valley ranch, which is situated east of Paso Robles in the Estrella Hills. This is by far our oldest vineyard; situated on a southwest-facing hillside of Nacimiento-Los Osos complex chalky clay loam soil with characteristic twisted and gnarled Zinfandel vines. Varietal expression in Zinfandel is usually characterized by more of the jammy fruit spectrum of berry flavors and aromas, and in this vintage we decided to wait for this to happen. Thinning in the vineyard--both at veraison and prior to harvest--allowed us to select the best maturing bunches to give optimal flavor balance.

TECHNICAL DATA

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Origin: | Pleasant Valley Vineyard, Paso Robles AVA |
| Composition: | 76.5% Zinfandel, 23.5% Syrah |
| Brix at Harvest: | 25.4° average |
| Total Acidity: | 0.64 g/100 ml |
| pH at Bottling: | 3.73 |
| Alcohol: | 14.6% by volume |
| Residual Sugar: | 0.23 g/100 ml |
| Vinification: | Stainless steel fermented at 85-90°F Malolactic fermentation in barrels |
| Maturation: | 9 months in new and second- fill French oak barrels |

WINEMAKER'S COMMENTS

The 2006 J. Lohr Old Vines Zinfandel is a moderately deep purple-red color with youthful hues. The aroma is characterized by Zinfandel's spicy and jammy red fruits. The blackberry and raspberry are complemented with licorice and black tea spice. The palate has a soft, plump texture with mid-palate weight and fruitiness making this a food-friendly wine, but is particularly suited to casual fare such as red-sauced pasta dishes or pizza.

Jeff Meier, winemaker